

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

The Roots of Government

Answer each of the following questions thoughtfully using complete sentences and in your own words. Simply copying from the text of the reading is not acceptable.

1. What was the main idea of The Articles of Confederation?

2. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson were influenced by what philosophical movement taking place in Europe? What were the key ideas of this movement?

3. What is republicanism and why was it rare in the late 1700s?

4. What is a constitution, and in what ways does it benefit its citizens?

5. What influence did the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights have on the colonies' new political system?

6. If you were an American in this time period, what improvements in the new political system would you want?

7. What is a federal government?

8. Why might the delegates of the Second Continental Congress have feared that a federal government was “*too much like a monarchy*”?

9. Describe what a confederation is.

10. How did the Articles of Confederation describe the states’ relationships with one another?

11. Describe what a national executive is. How is a national executive similar to a king?

12. What was the responsibility of the legislature?

13. Who was Governor William Franklin and what happened to him?

14. What were the differences between the local governments of New England and Virginia at this time?

15. Explain the problem that arose when the Articles of Confederation were passed in November 1777.

16. How and when was the problem solved?

17. Explain the early state government of the following states.

a. Connecticut and Rhode Island

b. Pennsylvania

c. Massachusetts